

Emergency telephone numbers

Type of Emergency	Contact	Phone Number
Fire	Stillwater Fire Department	911
Medical emergency	Stillwater Hospital	911
Animal bites/scratches/minor illness-injury	University Health Services	744-7665
Hazardous material spills	Environmental Health and Safety	744-7241
Equipment failure	PI	N/A
Radiation materials spill	Radiation Safety Office	744-7890
Biohazardous Materials spill/incidents	Biosafety Office	744-3203
Attending Veterinarian	Dr. Myron Hinsdale	744-7631
Animal Resources Staff	Staff Members	744-7631
Institutional Animal Care and Use	Staff Members	744-3852
Facilities Management	Staff Members	744-7154



Non-Contact Animal Exposure **VISITOR SAFETY**

Staff members and contractors who do not handle animals but are permitted to enter animal facilities are required to be issued the information in this pamphlet. Entry into any of OSU's spaces constitutes acceptance of and compliance with the guidelines contained herein.

Hazards associated with animals include:

- Physical injuries, e.g., animal bites; scratches or kicks; lifting heavy animals, cages or equipment.
- Zoonotic diseases are transmissible from animal to human. These diseases are uncommon in laboratory animals, and OSU has measures in place to prevent transmission. Risks are further reduced by use of personal protective equipment, such as lab coats, gloves, safety glasses and respirators while handling animals and equipment.
- Allergies associated with exposure to contact respiratory allergens, such as animal dander or urine.

Of the hazards, **allergies** are the only significant risk for individuals who do not directly handle animals or enter animal rooms. Even outside the animal holding rooms, allergens are frequently airborne or adhere to surfaces, such as hallway walls and door handles.

Animal allergies

Development of allergies is the single most common occupational hazard for personnel who work with research animals. Allergies can develop to a single animal species or to multiple species and can even begin after long-term exposure. Once a person develops an allergy and is then exposed to the allergen, histamine release and other factors can cause a variety of symptoms within minutes of exposure. These symptoms include:



- Runny nose
- Sneezing and coughing
- Itchy, watery eyes
- Skin reactions (reddening of the skin)
- Other respiratory symptoms, including asthma or difficulty breathing in severe cases.

The most common allergies in laboratory animal handlers develop from continued exposure to protein allergens commonly found in bedding, cages and residual dust particles. People who develop allergic symptoms should seek medical counseling and may need to wear special protective equipment or even discontinue working with the species if severe symptoms occur.

As a person who does not handle animals in OSU facilities, your risk of developing allergies to animals is low. However, when you enter an animal facility:

- Contact the animal facility manager or supervisor** upon arrival for guidance and facility-specific concerns.
- Do not handle or touch animals.** This information is intended for personnel who do not handle animals. If your job responsibility includes touching animals, you must obtain training in animal care and use and enroll in the Occupational Health and Safety Program by completing an Occupational Health questionnaire.
- All facility entrants must follow all instructions posted at the entry door about wearing protective clothing.**
- If you experience symptoms listed above within minutes of entering the animal facility, report the problem to your supervisor, who will initiate workplace protocols.** If you're not an OSU employee, report the problem to the Animal Care and Use Program at **405-744-3852**.

Required PPE

Maintenance staff and contractors

Yellow gown & shoe covers
(Additional PPE as area requires)

Visitors to barrier & BSL2 areas

Yellow gown
Shoe covers
Gloves
Mask
Head covering

Visitors to conventional areas

Lab coat or yellow gown
Shoe covers

